

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00370 142156Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----142200Z 039263 /75

R 141555Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4987
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION NDP LEADER SUPPORTS PREMIER
DAVIS' APPROACH TO QUEBEC: IS DAVIS NERVOUS ABOUT IT?

REF: 76 TORONTO 2361 (NOTAL)

1. ONTARIO OPPOSITION NDP LEADER LEWIS TOLD THE PRESS FEBRUARY 9 THAT HE FOUND PREMIER DAVIS' APPROACH TO QUEBEC PREMIER LEVESQUE "EXCELLENT" AND WORTHY OF ENCOURAGEMENT. LEWIS ASSESSED LIBERAL LEADER SMITH'S CONTINUING CALL FOR DIRECT APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC AS BUILDING HOSTILITY AND GAINING NOTHING WHILE DAVIS IS "MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION." STATEMENT FOLLOWED THREE-DAY MEETING OF NDP MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

2. COMMENT: WELL-KNOWN MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN DAVIS AND LEWIS MAY BE BECOMING TOO GREAT AN IMAGE PROBLEM FOR DAVIS. WHEN I COMMENTED ON LEWIS SUPPORT OF DAVIS' QUEBEC POSITION DURING LUNCH WITH PREMIER FEBRUARY 11, DAVIS REACTED BY TELLING ME THAT NEWSPAPERS DID NOT HAVE THE WHOLE STORY. HE GAVE NO SPECIFICS AND I WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT DAVIS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY LEWIS SUPPORT. AS I STILL BELIEVE DAVIS' BASIC APPROACH TO QUEBEC QUESTION
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DICTATED BY SIMPLE PATRIOTISM, THERE MAY BE AN INCREASING CONFLICT BETWEEN DAVIS THE CANADIAN WELCOMING SUPPORT FROM ALL QUARTERS AND DAVIS THE POLITICIAN HAVING HOPES OF RETURNING TO MAJORITY POWER IN THE NEXT ELECTIONS AND NOT OVERJOYED WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM OPPOSITION NDP.

3. REGARDING THE DAVIS-LEWIS RELATIONSHIP, I WAS TOLD BY DENNIS

MCDERMOTT OF THE UAW FEBRUARY 10 THAT BOTH LEADERS, IN ADDITION
TO OTHER COMMON VIEWPOINTS, SHARE A MUTUAL STRONG PERSONAL
DISLIKE OF LIBERAL LEADER STUART SMITH.
DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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